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BLM National Monuments - Priority Plans

12/15/17

The following outlines the BLMs priority approach to address any planning required in response to Presidential actions resulting from the Secretary's December 5th, 2017 Revised Final Report Summarizing Findings of the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act (Final Report).

Introduction

The BLM manages 27 National Monuments. Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains and Prehistoric Trackways are designated by Congress and the other 25 are designated by Presidential Proclamation through the Antiquities Act. Fourteen National Monuments have existing Resource Management Plans (RMPs), 4 require RMP updates to address monument management, and nine monuments are currently in some phase of a planning amendment process.

Executive Order 13792

Executive Order 13792, "Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act," dated April 26, 2017, (Order or E.O. 13792) directed the Secretary to conduct a review of certain Presidential designations made under the Act, to determine if the designations conformed to the policies set forth in the Order. The Order instructed that two reports summarizing the review be provided:

- a. an Interim Report within 45 days, addressing the Bears Ears National Monument established by Proclamation No. 9558, dated December 28, 2016, and "other such designations as the Secretary determines to be appropriate for inclusion"; and
- b. a Final Report within 120 days, summarizing the findings of the review for all other monument designations covered by the Order.

The Interim Report was issued on June 10, 2017.

Presidential Proclamations Modifying the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments

On December 4th the President issued the Presidential Proclamation Modifying the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Presidential Proclamation Modifying the Bears Ears National Monument.

- o The Proclamation Modifying the Grand Staircase-Escalante National modified the boundaries of the 1.7 million acres of Federal lands to 3 units: the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons units of the monument (1,003,863 acres).
- o The Proclamation Modifying the Bears Ears National Monument modified the boundaries of the 1.35 million acres of Federal lands to 2 units: the Shash Jáa area and the Indian Creek area; and excluded from its designation and reservation approximately 1,150,860 acres.

Secretary's December 5th, 2017 Final Report

On December 5th, in accordance with the Order, Secretary Zinke released the Final Report with results and recommendations for several monuments. The Final Report included:

- A concern for "landscape level designations" on BLM-managed lands becoming overlain by a more restrictive management regime, which "has the effect of narrowing the range of uses and limiting BLM's multiple-use mission." Absent specific assurances, traditional uses of the land (grazing, timber production, mining, fishing, hunting, recreation, and other cultural uses) "are unnecessarily restricted and especially harm rural communities in western states given that these towns have historically benefited and been economically sustained by grazing, mining, and timber production on nearby public lands, narrowing the range of uses and limiting BLM's multiple-use mission."
- A statement that DOI has plans to undertake a review of existing monument management plans and update them to be consistent with public access, infrastructure, traditional use, tribal cultural use, and hunting and fishing rights.
- Recommendations to modify the boundaries and/or management plans for Cascade-Siskiyou, Gold Butte (GBNM), Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks (OMDPNM) and Rio Grande del Norte (RGDNNM) National Monuments, in addition to the Bears Ears (BENM) and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.
- Recommendations for congressional action to establish tribal co-management for designated cultural areas within BENM, GBNM, OMDPNM, and RGDNNM.

Secretarial Order 3356

On September 15, 2017, Secretarial Order 3356 was issued which directs the BLM to "amend National Monument Management Plans to include or expand hunting, recreational shooting, and fishing opportunities to the extent practicable under the law." The BLM is developing an action plan to identify recommendations to amend or develop National Monument Management Plans to expand opportunities; and to identify potential actions that would further enhance hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities within National Monuments.

The action plan established priorities to implement Secretarial Order 3356 Section 4b(1) of by identifying (1) National Monument Management Plans that could be developed or amended to include or expand opportunities; and (2) potential actions that would further enhance hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities within National Monuments. For the S.O. 3356 action plan, high priority was given to National Monuments with current planning efforts underway and those with a planning-related restriction recommended for assessment. Medium priority was given to National Monuments currently with no plans in place or needs a plan amendment. Low priority was given to implementation actions

which expand hunting, recreational shooting, and fishing; to those with restrictions with no recommendation for assessment; and those with restrictions regulated and enacted by the States.

Priority List for Executive Order 13792 and Secretarial Order 3356

In order to best respond to the recent Proclamations, recommendations from the Final Report, as well as expand recreational access, planning needs for national monuments were put in priority order. Priorities were based on the following:

- Highest Priority: National Monuments designated by Presidential Proclamation and where Presidential actions have occurred since the Secretary's 12/5/17 Final Report was released.
- High Priority: National Monuments designated by Presidential Proclamation, and where recommendations were identified in the Secretary's 12/5/17 Final Report, but no subsequent Presidential action has occurred.
- Medium Priority: National Monuments not identified in the Secretary's 12/5/17 Final Report, but identified as a high priority for increasing recreational access under S.O. 3356.
- Low Priority: National Monuments not identified in the Secretary's 12/5/17 Final Report, not included in the E.O. 13792 review, or with no restrictions on fishing, hunting or recreational shooting.

Based on the criteria, the following table shows the monuments in priority order for planning purposes, including the monument name, current planning status, the relevant recommendations identified in the Secretary's 12/5/17 Final Report, and options to address the recommendations.

BLM National Monument Priority List					
National Monument and State	Existing Land Use Plan	Current Planning Status	Recommendations in Final Report	Action	Rationale for Priority List
Highest Priority					
Bears Ears, Utah	Monticello RMP, 2008.	NOI drafted	Develop management plan to protect objects, prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.	(b) (5) DPP	
Grand Staircase-Escalante, Utah	GSENM MMP, 1999	NOI drafted Currently a NOA for the GSENM DRMP-A/DEIS (livestock grazing amendment) is also routing in DTS.	Decrease in actual cattle from restrictions, limited motorized vehicle use, areas in GSENM contain several billion tons of coal, only NM with no public input. Develop management plan to protect objects, prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.		

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High Priority				
Cascade - Siskiyou, Oregon	CSNM RMP, 2008 Soda Mountain Wilderness Stewardship Plan, 2012	The BLM is implementing the current plans.	<p>Motorized transportation off roads prohibited in original designation. Expansion only allows for off roads in limited cases and after transportation management plan is completed. Plan not yet initiated. Due to poor maintenance, remaining usable roads are often unsuitable for use.</p> <p>Develop management plan to protect objects, prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.</p>	
Gold Butte, Nevada	Las Vegas RMP, 1998.	A supplement to the S.NV D.O. DEIS and GBNM. A NOI was initiated. Scoping has not been initiated.	<p>Develop management plan to protect objects, prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.</p> <p>The Final Report recommends congressional action to establish tribal co-management for designated cultural areas</p>	

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			within GBNM.	
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, New Mexico	Mimbres RMP, 1993	In pre-planning stages, awaiting Notice of Intent to be published.	<p>Border security is a concern resulting from the designation, as the Proclamation restricts motorized transportation close to the border.</p> <p>Remoteness and topography of the Potrillo Mountain Complex lends itself to a drug smuggling route and needs to be monitored.</p> <p>Potrillo Mountain Complex also encompasses the Mesilla groundwater basin which has an unknown potential to address future water needs, recharge, salinity control, and storage.</p> <p>Designation could prevent access to parts</p>	

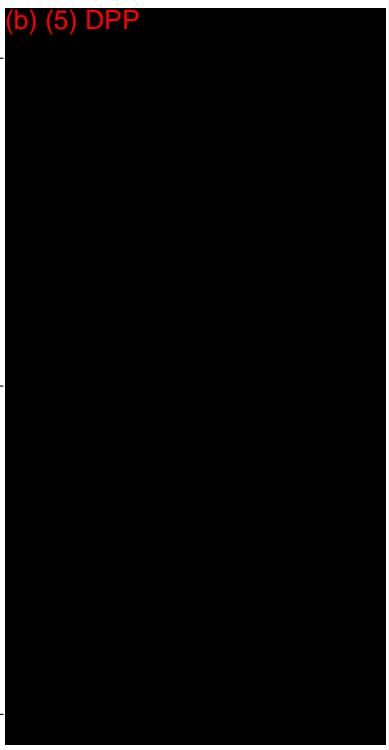
			<p>of allotments. Vegetative management and other maintenance work could be restricted and further degrade the ability for ranchers to run cattle.</p> <p>Develop management plan to protect objects, prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.</p>	(b) (5) DPP
Rio Grande del Norte, New Mexico	Taos RMP, 2012	<p>The RMP is currently being amended in an EA to address Monument management.</p>	<p>Lack of access to roads due to monument restrictions has left many grazing permittees choosing not to renew permits.</p> <p>Develop management plan to protect objects, prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.</p>	

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Medium Priority			
Sand to Snow, California	BLM is preparing a NOI to begin scoping.	The BLM and US Forest Service have initiated planning.	Reviewed but not in Final Report.

Upper Missouri River Breaks, Montana	Upper Missouri River Breaks RMP, 2008	BLM implementing current plan	Reviewed but not in Final Report.
Basin and Range, Nevada	Ely RMP, 2008.	Amendment to the RMP. A scoping report has been prepared.	Reviewed but not in Final Report.

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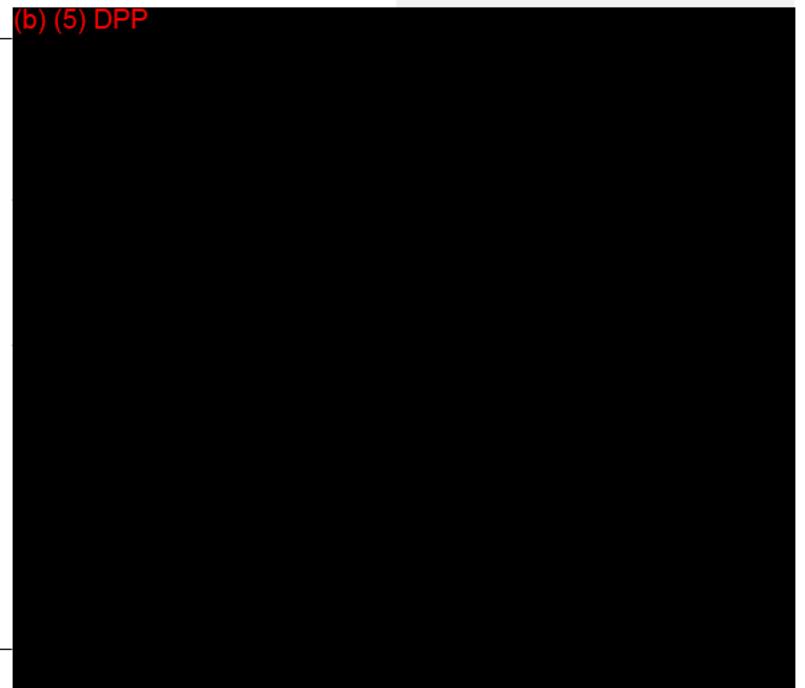


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Mojave Trails, California	California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980, as amended.	In pre-planning stages, awaiting Notice of Intent to be published.	Reviewed but not in Final Report.	
Berryessa Snow Mountain, California	2006 Ukiah Field Office RMP		Reviewed but not in Final Report.	

Carrizo Plain, California	Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP, 2010	BLM implementing current plan	Reviewed but not in Final Report.
Canyons of the Ancients, Colorado	Canyons of the Ancients RMP, 2010	BLM implementing current plan	Reviewed but not in Final Report.

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Browns Canyon, Colorado	Currently managed under the Royal Gorge Field Office RMP, 1996.	An independent joint BLM/USFS RMP is being prepared for BCNM. RMP currently in AMS phase and USFS Assessment	Reviewed but not in Final Report.
California Coastal National Monument	California Coastal National Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP), 2005	RMP is being amended to address additions to the Monument. A NOI prepared to start scoping for the Cotoni-Coast Dairies unit.	Not Reviewed under E.O. 13792
San Juan Islands, Washington	No RMP addressing these lands.	Currently developing alternatives for a monument RMP	Not Reviewed under E.O. 13792 No access restrictions identified.

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Fort Ord, California	Hollister FO RMP for the Southern Diablo Mountain Range and Central Coast of California, 2007.	BLM implementing current plan	Not Reviewed under E.O. 13792	
Agua Fria, Arizona	Agua Fria National Monument RMP, 2010	BLM implementing current plan	Not Reviewed under E.O. 13792	
Pompey's Pillar, Montana	Pompey's Pillar RMP, 2015	BLM implementing current plan	Not Reviewed under E.O. 13792	

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Low Priority			
Grand Canyon-Parashant, Arizona	BLM/NPS GCP RMP General Management Plan, 2008.	BLM implementing current plan	Reviewed but not in Final Report. No access restrictions identified.
Vermilion Cliffs, Arizona	Vermilion Cliffs National Monument RMP, 2008	BLM implementing current plan	Reviewed but not in Final Report. No access restrictions identified.

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Craters of the Moon, Idaho	The ROD for the Craters Amendment was signed in July 2017.	The BLM will begin implementation plan	Reviewed but not in Final Report. No access restrictions identified.	
Ironwood Forest, Arizona	Ironwood Forest National Monument RMP, 2013	BLM implementing current plan	Reviewed but not in Final Report.	
Sonoran Desert, Arizona	Sonoran Desert National Monument RMP, 2012	Released a proposed RMP Amendment and Final EIS for recreational target shooting 10/20/2017.	Reviewed but not in Final Report.	

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Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks, New Mexico	Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks NM RMP (2007)	BLM implementing current plan	Not Reviewed under E.O. 13792
Prehistoric Trackways, New Mexico	Prehistoric Trackways RMP, 2015	BLM implementing current plan	Not Reviewed under E.O. 13792
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, California	Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan, 2004	BLM implementing current plan	Not Reviewed under E.O. 13792